

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended): An isolated polynucleotide, comprising:
 - (a) at least one copy of a polynucleotide having the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:9;
or
 - (b) a polynucleotide which is a variant of the polynucleotide set forth in SEQ ID NO:9, wherein the variant hybridizes to ~~SEQ ID NO: 9~~ or the complement of SEQ ID NO:9 ~~its complement~~ under 5x SSC and 42°C wash conditions and has a plant genetic insulator activity.
2. (Currently Amended): The isolated polynucleotide of claim 1, wherein the variant comprises at least one copy of a polynucleotide having a sequence set forth in the group consisting of SEQ ID NOS:1, 5, 9, ~~10~~, 11, ~~12~~, 15, ~~16~~, 17, ~~18~~, 21, ~~22~~, 23, ~~24~~, 25, ~~26~~, 27, ~~28~~, 30, 31, 33, 34, 35 or 36.
3. (Previously Presented): A replicable vector comprising the isolated polynucleotide of claim 1.
4. (Previously Presented): The replicable vector of claim 3, wherein the vector is an expression vector.
5. (Previously Presented): The replicable vector of claim 3, wherein the vector is a plant vector.
6. (Currently Amended): A host cell comprising the replicable vector of claim 3 ~~isolated polynucleotide of claim 1~~.
7. (Previously Presented): The host cell of claim 6, wherein the host cell is a plant cell.

8. (Previously Presented): A transgenic plant comprising the isolated polynucleotide of claim 1.
9. (Previously Presented): The plant of claim 8, wherein the plant is *Arabidopsis* or tobacco.
10. (Previously Presented): A transgenic seed comprising the isolated polynucleotide of claim 1.
11. (Currently Amended): A recombinant polynucleotide, comprising:
 - (a) at least one copy of a polynucleotide having the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:9;
or
 - (b) a polynucleotide which is a variant of the polynucleotide set forth in SEQ ID NO:9, wherein said variant hybridizes to ~~SEQ ID NO: 9 or~~ the complement of SEQ ID NO:9 ~~its complement~~ under 5x SSC and 42°C wash conditions and has a plant genetic insulator activity.

Claim 12-17 (Cancelled).